



Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Dec. 4, 2008

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Gene Halliday, Rich Hedges, Josh Miele, Doug Weir. Members excused: Julio Lacayo, Marshall Loring, Craig Yates, Shirlee Zane (resigned).

EDAC Minutes

Minutes of the Nov. 6, 2008 meeting were corrected to reflect that 1) Ms. Braxton was excused from the Nov. meeting, 2) the correct spelling of the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA) staffer who attended last month's meeting is Naomi Armenta; and 3) regarding Mobility Management, Chair Branson said rural counties actually led the effort to tailor service planning and delivery to travel needs of unique populations. The Minutes were then approved with a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Bischofberger. Two abstained (Abelson, Braxton).

Member Updates

Mr. Hedges reported on a field trip to Denver and its light rail (no graffiti, serves three colleges and all local sports venues). Mr. Grant noted reporter Nevius' column in today's SF Chronicle regarding congestion pricing.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported that the Advisory Council's work plan was considered overly large and so they were going to take an additional month to streamline the plan. Mr. Grant also discussed his difficulty obtaining and using his TransLink[®] card.

EDAC Subcommittee Reports

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett reported noticeable gaps in the regional emergency coordination plan that omits certain populations, and that his group is working on identifying best practices for the short- and long term.

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Co-chair Hedges said he and Mr. Bischofberger were working on having planning commissions in Alameda Co. be made aware of what transit villages most need, and noted the many amenities planned for the transit village at Bay Meadows.

Staff Liaison Report - Ms. Vogler's announcements:

- Advisory committee appointments go before Commission in Jan. 2009.
- Outstanding certifications for completing Ethics training are due.
- Mr. Hedges presents EDAC's work plan to the Legislation Committee on Dec. 12 in lieu of Chair Branson.
- Mr. Grant was commended for his work on a pedestrian plan; MTC Commissioner Sperling has asked him to present his work to the Planning Committee.

Legislative Report

Rebecca Long highlighted aspects of MTC's annual legislative program, e.g., secure transit funding via a constitutional amendment placed on the ballot through the initiative process; obtaining a new fund source for local streets and roads; lowering the vote threshold for citizen initiatives from two-thirds to a majority, etc. She said the budget continued to be unaddressed in Sacramento. In response to Mr. Hedges, she said that to pass the legal nexus test any gas fee needs careful structuring.

Election of Officers

Ms. Vogler noted the two nominations for chair (Branson and Grant) and two nominations for vice chair (Loring and Grant) and asked if there were additional nominations (none).

Vice Chair Weir conducted the election of officers. He asked for statements from the nominees for chair. Nominee Paul Branson said that anticipated layoffs at his agency could affect his employment and ability to finish a term as chair, if elected, or even his ability to attend EDAC meetings. If elected, however, he would continue to advocate for seniors and the disabled. He advised electing a strong vice chair. Mr. Grant said that he was withdrawing his name as a nominee for chair. Mr. Hedges said that because there were no other nominations, which were now closed, he moved that by acclamation Mr. Branson be elected chair, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Weir called for comment by nominees for vice chair. Mr. Hedges spoke on behalf of nominee Marshall Loring and reminded members that he was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Loring's written remarks were read by Mr. Hedges, which were to support the chair in the committee's work, guide the action of its subcommittees, and represent the committee's jurisdictions. Mr. Grant withdrew his nomination for vice chair, expressing his appreciation of it, adding that Mr. Loring deserves to be vice chair. Declaring Mr. Loring a very qualified candidate, Mr. Branson moved to elect Mr. Loring as vice chair, which was seconded by Mr. Weir and unanimously approved.

California Highway Patrol Videos on Senior Driving Issues

Because Mr. Lacayo was unable to attend, Ms. Vogler introduced two senior driving videos created by the California Highway Patrol. The first video, *Taking Charge*, reminds all senior drivers to begin planning for the time when driving is no longer an option. The video includes seniors speaking to other seniors about their experiences and transportation planning solutions. The second video, *Driving Change*, is about family members who are concerned about the safety of their parents who should no longer be driving. The video offers solutions on how to handle this sensitive and emotional situation.

EDAC members watched both videos and had the following comments:

- Refrain from using third-person 'they' when referring to elders, doing so is offensive.

- Q: What is the role of insurance companies when covering elderly drivers? A: Insurance companies fund many promotional programs such as the CarFit program and provide brochures and videos on safe driving for seniors.
- Once a senior's second new car is wrecked, or a senior says, "They keep giving me tickets for going through red lights," the party's over.
- "Taking Charge" is about solutions; "Driving Change" is about problems.
- Younger drivers advocate for change, but elders seem not to.
- Q: Is paratransit not available to the elderly, and ought we to be working on this? A member's reply was that buses were meant to be used by seniors; paratransit is meant for the disabled.
- Wheelchair users were cautioned against putting themselves in the path of an elder driver.
- Showing safe driving videos as one's local senior center needs to anticipate audience members who will typically say, "that's not me, I'm not there yet."
- Such videos ought be more focused on accident victims.
- Q: What about self-assessment driving tests? The auto club has a downloadable software program. A member requested it be demonstrated at a future EDAC meeting with volunteers offering to take the test.
- My own ophthalmologist didn't tell me to stop driving (spoken by one sight-impaired member).
- Don't rush to take away licenses of all elder drivers.
- Be mindful that drivers who didn't grow up in California are less familiar with the law granting pedestrians the right-of-way. The driver's test allows five wrong answers, but no one ever asks, 'Which five did you miss?' - one might have been the pedestrian right-of-way question.
- Q: Can we obtain a list of resources for safe driving?
[Mr. Branson offered to send one to Ms. Vogler, adding that he would also talk to Mr. Lacayo.]
- Q: Is the video "Mobility Matters" still available? A: Yes, in the MTC-ABAG Library.

Other Business, Next Meeting

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting was scheduled for Jan. 8, 2009. The meeting was adjourned early, at 12:15 p.m.